



October 1, 2012

**Re: 2014 303(d) and 305(b) Water Quality Call for Data**

Both state and federal law require DEQ to maintain and regularly update Montana's List of "threatened and impaired waters." DEQ is beginning work on its 2014 update. Our monitoring teams collect data during field seasons to update the water quality assessments of a number of waterbodies. We realize that many other organizations, both within and outside of state government, also collect water quality data, which could be very useful for updating the list.

**What kind of information is needed?** Our staff seeks physical, chemical, and biological data relating to the current condition of streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the state acquired since 2008. Data and information relating to the use and condition of riparian areas may also be relevant. Older data is likely to be of less value as it may not reflect current conditions. Specifically, Montana law requires DEQ to base its water quality assessments on data, which is "sufficient and credible" to allow for a determination of whether state water quality standards are being met.

**How to get information to the Water Quality Planning Bureau?** Electronic data deliverables may be uploaded to Montana EQuIS Water Quality Exchange (MT-eWQX) by following the instructions contained in this document [MT-eWQX Guidance Manual - Call for Data](#). We also would appreciate being told of any sources of information which you believe could assist us and that we might not have identified.

Please be aware that the **deadline for submittal** of water quality data and other materials has been set for **February 1, 2013**. All materials received on or before February 1, 2013 will be reviewed in developing the 2014 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Integrated Report. Materials submitted after that date may not be used in the 2014 Report, but will be assessed for subsequent list updates.

Please address any questions to Pamela Arroues, Integrated Report Coordinator, at [parroues@mt.gov](mailto:parroues@mt.gov), or phone (406) 444-6763. Any relevant data that you can supply will be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
/Michael Pipp/

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